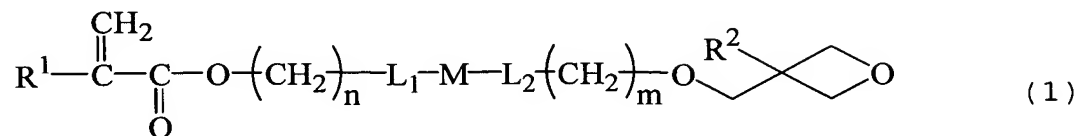
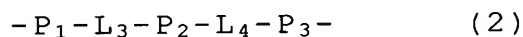


What is claimed is:

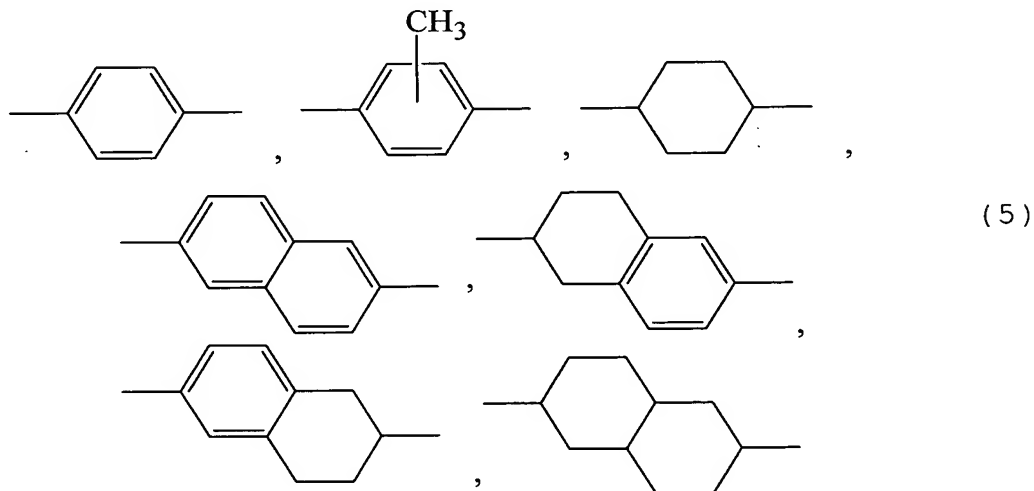
1. A (meth)acrylic compound having an oxetanyl group represented by the formula

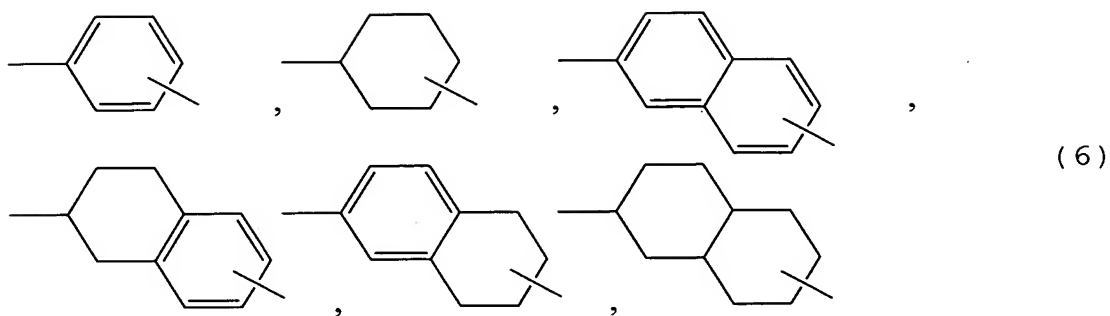


wherein R^1 is hydrogen or methyl, R^2 is hydrogen, methyl, or ethyl, L_1 and L_2 each are selected from a single bond, $-\text{O}-$, $-\text{O}-\text{CO}-$, and $-\text{CO}-\text{O}-$, M represents a formula selected from formulas (2), (3) and (4) below, and n and m are each independently an integer from 0 to 10:



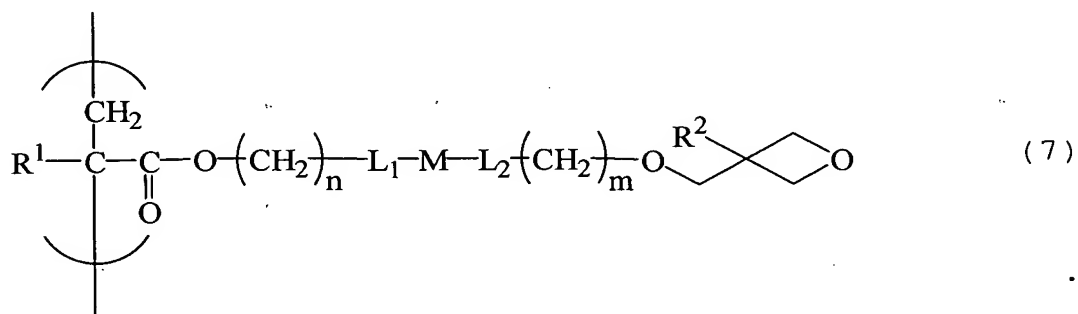
wherein P_1 and P_2 are each independently a group selected from formulas (5) below, P_3 is a group selected from formulas (6) below, and L_3 and L_4 are each independently selected from a single bond, $-\text{CH}=\text{CH}-$, $-\text{C}\equiv\text{C}-$, $-\text{O}-$, $-\text{O}-\text{CO}-$ and $-\text{CO}-\text{O}-$





2. A side chain-type liquid crystalline polymeric substance obtained by homopolymerizing the (meth)acrylic portion of the (meth)acrylic compound having an oxetanyl group as defined in claim 1 or copolymerizing same with another (meth)acrylic compound.

3. The side chain-type liquid crystalline polymeric substance according to claim 2 which has a unit represented by formula (7) below derived from a (meth)acrylic compound having an oxetanyl group as defined in claim 1:



4. The side chain-type liquid crystalline polymeric substance according to claim 3 which contains a unit of said formula (7) in an amount of 5 to 100 percent by mol.

5. The side chain-type liquid crystalline

polymeric substance according to claim 2 wherein the weight-average molecular weight is from 2,000 to 100,000.

6. A liquid crystal material which contains the side-chain type liquid crystalline polymeric substance as defined in claim 2 in an amount of 10 percent by mass or more.

7. The liquid crystal material which further contains a photo cationic initiator and/or a thermal cationic initiator.

8. A liquid crystal film which is formed by fixing the orientation state of the liquid crystal material as defined in claim 6 or 7.

9. A method of producing a liquid crystal film wherein the liquid crystal material as defined in claim 6 or 7 is developed over an alignment substrate so as to align the liquid crystal material in a liquid crystal orientation state, followed by fixing the orientation by light irradiation and/or a heat treatment.

10. The method of producing a liquid crystal film according to claim 9 wherein said orientation state is one obtained by fixing an orientation state selected from the group consisting of nematic, twisted nematic, cholesteric, and nematic hybrid orientations.

11. An optical film which comprises the liquid crystal film as defined in claim 8.

12. The optical film according to claim 11 which

is selected from the group consisting of a retardation film, a color compensation film, a viewing angle improving film, a circular polarizing film, and an optical rotatory film.